

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 04642 301201Z

53-S

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 EB-11 COME-00 SCEM-02

INT-08 SPC-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /101 W

----- 124539

R 300810Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9723

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 4642

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG SN

SUBJ: PETROLEUM CUTBACKS

REF: SINGAPORE 4526

1. SINGAPORE REFINERIES, MOST OF WHICH HAD BEEN RUNNING AT LESS THAN CAPACITY BEFORE MIDEAST CUTBACKS, ARE BEING UTILIZED EVEN LESS NOW THAT CUTBACKS ARE AFFECTING SUPPLY OF CRUDE. DESPITE EXPANSIONS BY THREE OF THE REFINERIES AND COMING ON-STREAM OF SINGAPORE PETROLEUM COMPANY'S (SPC) REFINERY, CRUDE INPUT INTO SINGAPORE FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 1973 WAS AT SAME LEVEL AS FOR 1972. CUTBACKS HAVE CAUSED DECREASES OF 10-20PERCENT IN CRUDE SUPPLIES TO SINGAPORE WHILE EXPANSION HAS INCREASED CAPACITY FROM APPROX 500,000 BBD IN 1972 TO PRESENT LEVEL OF ABOUT 700,000 BBD EXCLUDING ESSO EXPANSION. ESSO'S 150,000 BBD EXPANSION IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETE BUT THEY HAVE HELD UP PRODUCTION FROM IT.

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 04642 301201Z

MOBIL'S 180,000 BBD REFINERY IS BEING UTILIZED AT

AROUND 2/3 OF CAPACITY. BP AND SPC WHICH TOGETHER
HAVE CAPACITY OF 90,000 BBD ARE REFINING ABOUT 75,000 BBD.
SHELL IS OPERATING AT ABOUT 15 PERCENT BELOW ITS
CAPACITY OF 350,000 BBD.

2. THERE IS INSUFFICIENT BUNKER FUEL FOR SHIPS
CALLING AT SINGAPORE PORTS. SO FAR OIL COMPANIES HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO SUPPLY THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRACTS. HOWEVER, EVEN
THOSE SHIPS WITH CONTRACTS CANNOT ALWAYS GET FULL AMOUNT OF
BUNKERS NEEDED. AT LEAST ONE OIL COMPANY HAS NOTIFIED
ITS CUSTOMERS THAT IF SITUATION WORSENS IT MAY NOT BE ABLE
TO HONOR ALL ITS CONTRACTS. TRAMP VESSELS ARE HAVING
DIFFICULTY OBTAINING ANY BUNKERS. SHORTAGE IS APPLIED
ACROSS BOARD REGARDLESS OF FLAG. CRUCIAL FACTORS
ARE AMOUNT OF FUEL NEEDED BY SHIP AND RELATIONS BETWEEN
SHIPPING LINE AND OIL COMPANY. PRICE OF BUNKER FUEL IS
EXPECTED TO INCREASE SHARPLY NEXT MONTH TO COVER
INCREASE COSTS.

3. SAVE ENERGY CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED BY GOS IS CONTINUING.
INITIAL EFFORTS BY PUBLIC HAVE RESULTED IN 5 PERCENT DECREASE
IN CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY, LARGEST SINGLE CONSUMER OF
OIL. NEXT WEEK GOS AND OIL COMPANIES WILL MOUNT
JOINT PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO FURTHER REDUCE ENERGY
CONSUMPTION. CAMPAIGN WILL BE AIMED AT ALL ENERGY CONSUMERS
AND WILL CALL FOR FURTHER VOLUNTARY EFFORTS BY INDUSTRY
AND PUBLIC TO MEET ENERGY CRISIS.
CRONK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SINGAP04642
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973112/aaaaabav.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SINGAPORE 4526
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Feb-2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PETROLEUM CUTBACKS
TAGS: ENRG, SN, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005